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Written Assignment 2

In 1. Samuel 1-3 we get to know Eli and his sons. All of them are from the tribe of Levi which makes them priests. In the first three chapters, we learn about how Eli's sons have no regard for the Lord and also how God punishes their behavior. In the following text, I will focus on Eli's life and how he's reacting to his son's disrespectfulness against God.

Eli was part of the tribe of Levi and that made Eli a priest. Eli had two sons that were also priests. Both of his sons had no regard for the Lord. They disrespected the sacrifices and they took the meat from people that were sacrificing because their own share was not enough for them. They were also sleeping with multiple women who served in front of the tent. Eli talked to his sons multiple times. He warned them about sinning against the Lord directly but they didn't care. After a while, even a prophet came to Eli and informed him about the punishment the whole family would get. At the same time, Eli was taking care of the young boy Samuel who was serving God with him. Samuel's mother who didn't have children for a long time promised God to give her child back to God if he would give her a child. His mother Hannah was suffering because she didn't have any children. But after she prayed in the house of God, God gifted her with Samuel. Like she promised Hannah gave him back and Eli was taking care of him.

Eli had good and bad moments in his life as we all do. Eli's biggest issue was that he was putting his sons before God. He loved his sons more than God and because of that, he looked away when his sons were dishonoring the sacrifices by taking away the meat

(1. Samuel 2.29). He also looked away when they were sleeping with multiple women. Even after his sons disregarded his warning of God's punishment he didn't change anything. Eli just let it happen.

But Eli was also doing good. After a woman whose name is Hannah got finally her first child she gave it back to God as promised by giving it to Eli (1. Samuel 1.20). Eli raised this child whose name is Samuel and Samuel becomes a good servant to God (1. Samuel 3.19). I would say Eli I doing a good job of directing Samuel in the right direction. Eli also helps Samuel to talk to God for the first time (1. Samuel 3.9).

In my opinion, Eli is definitely not a bad person. Did he sin? Yes, he definitely did, but does this make him a bad person? Eli was serving God. He also trained Samuel to be a priest. I think the biggest issue is that he didn't put God first. He put his sons first. By doing that he accepted that his sons were sinning directly against god. Eli looked away when his sons were dishonoring God and when they had no regard for God. As a priest, he should've handled that issue differently. I don't think that Eli is a bad character. Living in Eli's time was way harder. The way to forgiveness was way harder. At this point, Jesus didn't die yet for us and you had to sacrifice for all your sins. I know that we wouldn't do anything else than sacrifice the whole day because we are full of sin. It's obviously bad what Eli did but at the same time, I look at our world today. How often do we put everything else before God and how often do we sin because we didn't put God first?

In conclusion, I would say Eli is not a bad character. It was still wrong what he did but I don't think I could judge Eli's behavior, because I'm full of sin myself. Through those chapters, I was able to see how dangerous it is not to put God first. That's why I'm constantly working on putting him first even though it's really hard.

